

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing method for use in a scanner driver, comprising steps of:

outputting a scanning command to a scanner;

5 judging whether an image corresponding an image
signal obtained from the scanner in response to the
command represents a specified image; and

10 outputting a result obtained in said judging step
so as to use the result in a processing of the image
signal.

15 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said
outputting step outputs to an operation system
executing the process on the image signal according to
the result obtained in said judging step.

20 3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said
judging step executes judgement using template
matching.

25 4. A method according to claim 1, wherein a
process of obtaining the image signal from the scanner
is executed by a scanner module, and the process of
judging whether the image corresponding to the image
signal represents the specified image is executed by a
forgery preventing module.

*See claims
21-23*

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Nominal

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said judging step executes judgement on the image corresponding to the image signal and plural specified images.

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6. A method according to claim 1, wherein said judging step executes judgement with an image signal obtained by spatial thinning of the image signal.

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7. A method according to claim 1, wherein said judging step executes judgement executed with an image signal obtained by reducing the number of bits of the image signal.

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8. A method according to claim 1, wherein said judging step terminates judgement when there is obtained a high judgment rate indicating that the image corresponding to the image signal obtained from the scanner represents the specified image.

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9. A method according to claim 1, wherein said judging step executes judgement with an image signal obtained by spatial thinning of the image signal, and, if the result obtained in said judging step indicates a high probability of a specified image, said judging step executes judgement with the image signal without thinning.

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10. A method according to claim 9, wherein said judgment with the unthinned image signal is executed by using only the image signal in an area containing an object of judgment within the thinned image signal.

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11. A method according to claim 1, wherein said judging step execute second judgement when a high judgment rate is obtained in a first judgment in two kinds of judgements provided for a same specific image.

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12. A computer readable memory medium which stored codes for executing the method according to claim 1.

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13. An operating system for obtaining a result of judgment indicating whether an image corresponding to an image signal obtained by scanning represents a specified image; and

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executing a process according to the obtained result of judgment.

14. An operating system according to claim 13, wherein said judgment is executed in a scanner driver.

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15. An operating system according to claim 14, wherein information indicating whether said judgment has been executed is obtained from said scanner driver.

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16. An operating system according to claim 13,
wherein said process is a working on said image signal.

17. An operating system according to claim 13,
5 wherein said process is a process of ending an
application functioning on said operating system.

18. An image processing method for use in an
input device comprising steps of:
10 outputting an image signal generating command to
an input device;
judging whether an image corresponding to the
image signal obtained from said input device in
response to said command represents a specified image;
15 and
outputting a result obtained in said judging step
for use for a process of said image signal.

19. A method according to claim 18, wherein said
20 input device is a digital camera, a digital camcorder,
a film scanner, a compact disk, a minidisk or a DVD.

20. A computer readable memory medium which
stored codes for executing the process according to
25 claim 18.

21. An image processing method for use in a

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printer driver comprising the steps of:

receiving an instruction for a printing process;

judging whether an image corresponding to an image
signal developed represents a specified image according
5 to the printing process; and

outputting a result obtained in said judging step

so as to use the result in a process of said image
signal.

10 22. An image processing method for use in a
printer driver according to claim 21,

wherein a forgery preventing module in an
operating system outputs an instruction for executing a
predetermined display to a display driver according to
15 the result obtained in said judging step.

23. An image processing method for use in a
printer driver according to claim 21,

20 wherein a forgery preventing module in an
operating system outputs an instruction for terminating
a spooling operation according to the result obtained
in said judging step.

24. An image processing method for use in a
25 printer driver according to claim 21,

wherein said judging step execute judgement using
template matching.

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25. An image processing method for use in a
printer driver according to claim 22,

wherein said predetermined display indicates that
the image is an image of which reproduction is
5 inhibited.

26. An image processing method for use in a
printer driver according to claim 25,

wherein when an instruction for printing is issued
10 after the display, log information is stored in memory
means.

27. An image processing method for use in a
printer driver according to claim 21,

15 wherein said judging step executes judgement for
an image corresponding to the image signal and plural
specific images.

28. An image processing method for use in a
20 printer driver according to claim 21,

wherein said judging step executes judgement with
an image signal obtained by spatial thinning of the
image signal.

29. An image processing method for use in a
25 printer driver according to claim 21,

wherein said judging step executes with an image

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30. An image processing method for use in a
5 printer driver according to claim 21,

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33. An image processing method for use in a

printer driver according to claim 31,

wherein said judging step executes second judgement when a high judgment rate is obtained in first judgment in two kinds of judgements provided for
5 a same specific image.

34. A computer-readable memory medium which stored codes for executing the method according to claim 21.
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35. An operating system for:
obtaining a result of a judgment whether an image corresponding to an image signal obtained according to a print instruction represents a specific image;
15 outputting a signal for executing a process according said obtained result of judgment.

36. An operating system according to claim 35, wherein said judgment is executed in a printer driver.
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37. An operating system according to claim 35, wherein said process is a process for terminating the printing of the image corresponding to said image signal.
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38. An operating system according to claim 35, wherein said process is a process for displaying that

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39. An image processing method for use in a driver comprising the steps of:

judging whether an image corresponding to the
image signal obtained from said input device in
response to said command represents a specified image;
and

40. An image processing method for use in a
15 driver according to claim 39, wherein said input device
is a digital camera, a digital camcorder, a scanner, a
compact disk, a mini disk, or a DVD.

judging whether an image corresponding to an image
signal represents a specific image; and

adding information indicating that said image is the specific image, to said image signal if image data of two image judged as specific image is stored when said judgment identifies that said image is a specified image.

42. A method according to claim 41, wherein said added information can be recognized by a printer driver or a printer.

5 43. A method according to claim 41, wherein said added information is also copied when image signal is copied to a memory medium.

10 44. A method according to claim 41, wherein said added information is added as a digital watermark to the image signal.

15 45. A scanner adapted for outputting an image signal to the scanner driver according to claim 1.

46. A printer adapted for printing an image from the printer driver according to claim 21.

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